

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (Currently amended) A sling for the purpose of attaching or carrying loads, comprising:

a ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular fabric or a tube-like fabric, or knit, ~~exhibiting comprising~~ two ends, one end of which is embodied so as to be being formed narrower or approximately of equal size and the other is embodied so as to be end being formed broader or of equal size relative to the rest of the tubular fabric, which is found between the ends, wherein the two ends form a connection site wherein the narrower end is ~~extant~~, inserted into the broader end, ~~into each other and exhibits, in the area of the connection site, and~~

at least one seam, which connects both ends at the connection site, as a result of which wherein the connection site, is embodied; for a prescribed strength, ~~more thinly~~ is thinner, shorter, or ~~more narrowly~~ narrower than in the case of overlapping if the two ends were overlapped of the customary type.

2. (Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein ~~the sling exhibits,~~ on ~~[[the]]~~ upper and lower surfaces, ~~[[a]]~~ the connection site ~~[[that]]~~ is 50% thinner, with a smaller transition of the two ends than is the case with overlapping ends of the customary type.

3. (Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein at the connection site ~~[[of]]~~ the two ends, ~~which are inserted into each other and as a result of the sewing sewn together of the two ends, which are joined within each other to two fabrics each instead of one fabric each, exhibits a substantially higher tensile strength at the connection site.~~

4. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein at the connection site ~~of the two ends, which are inserted into one another, whereby the one end is a tube and the other end is an inelastic, a partially elastic, or an elastic band, ~~[[that]]~~ and the sewing two ends are sewn together of the ends exhibits a higher tensile strength and a slighter thickening at the connection site.~~

5. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric, at at least one other site, ~~is embodied in the~~ comprises a cross-section ~~more thinly or narrowly~~ that is narrower relative to the remaining tubular fabric ~~and as a result, exhibits at least one narrow area or one narrow site.~~

6. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric ~~is embodied~~ comprises at at least one site ~~[[as]]~~ a band and at at least one site ~~[[as]]~~ a cord and ~~that these~~ the sites are aligned in random sequence next to each other and ~~they allow themselves to be~~ the ends are connected by means of insertion.

7. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric ~~exhibits~~ comprises drawstrings that lie freely within the tubular fabric,

~~so that the tubular fabric serves as a protective mantle against sharp edges and cuts.~~

8. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 7, wherein the tubular fabric is elastic and the drawstrings are inelastic, or wherein the tubular fabric is inelastic and the drawstrings are elastic.

9. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A sling according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, wherein the tubular fabric, in the narrow ~~[[area]]~~ cross-section, ~~is embodied as~~ comprises a cord.

10. (Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric is comprised of a combination of materials that are distinct with respect to elasticity, expansion behavior, resistance to being cut, resistance to tearing and resistance to abrasion, ~~as a result of which an optimum of tensile strength, resistance to abrasion and ability to resist being cut is given in conjunction with low weight.~~

11. (Currently amended) A sling according to claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric is comprised of a combination of ~~highly strong~~ fibers of Dyeema, Kevlar, aramide, polyester and polyamide.

12. (Currently amended) ~~The use of the A~~ sling according to claim 1 configured for use in the sport of climbing.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The use of the A~~ sling according to claim 1 configured for use as a climbing sling or a stopping sling in the area of occupational safety.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The use of the A~~ sling according to claim 1 configured for use with a ski pole or for a ski and snowboard binding.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The use of the A~~ sling according to claim 1 configured for use as a knapsack support belt.

16. (New) A sling for attaching or carrying loads, consisting of:

a tubular fabric consisting of two ends, one end being formed narrower or approximately of equal size and the other end being formed broader or of equal size relative to the rest of the tubular fabric, which is found between the ends, wherein the two ends form a connection site wherein the narrower end is inserted into the broader end, and

a seam, which connects both ends at the connection site, wherein the connection site, for a prescribed strength, is thinner, shorter, or narrower than if the two ends were overlapped.